

The Sun.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1881.

The regular circulation of THE SUN for the week ending Sept. 24, 1881, was:

Sunday	149,885	Weekly	69,280
Monday	131,232	Tuesday	148,478
Wednesday	160,615	Thursday	148,478
Friday	160,615	Saturday	148,478
Total for the week		1,107,468	

A Day of Prayer.

To-morrow the people of the country will prostrate themselves before God because of the murder of President GARFIELD. There is no doubt that throughout the Union, in city, town, village, and hamlet, the churches will be filled with worshippers.

The ordinary fast day proclaimed by the civil authorities is turned into a festival in actual practice. Formal prayers are, indeed, uttered in the churches, and the preachers get up special sermons for the occasion, but the mass of the people use the holiday for the purpose of sport. They do not stop to think of their dependence on the Divine protection. They are too eager to enjoy the extra day of rest to spend its hours in religious exercises. Their thoughts are of time and not eternity.

But to-morrow there will be real fasting and prayer among Christians of every name. It will be a day of universal mourning, and it is when men stand in the presence of death that they feel their own nothingness and are most awakened to religious thought. Then, if at no other time, they are ready to acknowledge the power of God, and their minds are impressed by the mystery of His government of the world. Even the careless, the infidel, the scoffing, and the proud are humbled as they look into the grave. They are all touched with religious sentiment. They all turn their thoughts toward Heaven. In their sorrow they are ready to look to God, though under ordinary circumstances they ignore Him, and perhaps even doubt His existence as a personal Being. They want comfort. Earth and man cannot give it, and so they instinctively fly to God and Heaven.

Who can doubt that deep in the hearts of all men lies a feeling of need for a Divine Father, capable of affections, and with an ear open to prayer? How small seem the conquests of infidelity, the triumphs of scientific skepticism, when we now find Government and people displaying a faith in God which is almost medieval. When President GARFIELD was battling for life, millions of prayers for his recovery were daily sent up; and now that he is dead, instead of distrusting the efficacy of prayer, we find that, even more than before, faith in prayer, in God, is strong among the people. Nothing can destroy the religious sentiment in man. No successful assault can ever be made on the fundamental principles of Christianity.

Why We Got On Without a President.

The country has learned one lesson during the last three months which those who would exalt the Federal authority at the expense of the State Governments will find it difficult to wipe out. For eighty days we have virtually had no President. From the time when he was struck down by an assassin's bullet to the hour of his latest breath, JAMES A. GARFIELD gave no official order by word of mouth, and signed but one official document, which is said to have been merely a warrant of extradition.

And yet the country was never more orderly and tranquil.

The fact has led some light-headed persons to indulge in a good deal of gush over the law-abiding qualities of the American people; and we have been invited to picture the anarchy which it is said would have prevailed in any European country under analogous circumstances.

It is true enough that if France or Prussia or Russia, or any other highly centralized State, were left for a considerable period without an executive head, it would be in a bad way. The stoppage of the main-spring and driving wheel would throw out of gear all the mechanism of the local administration. But to this rule even in Europe there are exceptions which throw a flood of light on the real cause of the smoothness and security with which we have gone on in the absence of a Federal Executive.

Take the case of Switzerland, for instance. That country might be deprived for months of a chief magistrate, and yet no business or social interest would suffer. Why? Because Switzerland is not a centralized Government, but a union of cantons, and the guarantees of law and order are furnished not by the federal, but by the local authorities. So, too, the German empire, which is a confederation of States, might be left without a head, and the fact would not interfere with the internal peace and security of Bavaria, Saxony, Baden, and Württemberg.

The truth is that for nearly three months our people have been practically dependent for the maintenance of law and order on our State, county, and municipal Governments. We have been living just as our forefathers lived, prior to 1789, when they framed a Constitution for the purpose of common defense against foreign enemies, and of averting intestine quarrels between States.

The supreme excellence of the American system of local self-government is amply demonstrated by the fact that the country has been able to go on successfully for eighty days without a Federal Executive.

Extravagance at the White House.

Down to the end of ANDREW JOHNSON'S term as President the expenditures for the Executive establishment were moderate and fair. There was no just ground for complaint. During the four years of civil war and the four following years the pressure of public business exceeded all former experience, and it necessarily diminished in proportion as order was established in the regular methods.

Gen. GRANT entered the White House on the 4th of March, 1869, and the appropriations had already been made for the year 1870. Starting at that time, and proceeding down to the last in 1881, the remarkable increase in these twelve years cannot fail to attract attention and to provoke criticism, because it was without a color of justification, or even of a direct pretext. The following figures will speak for themselves:

1870—	Comptroller of President	\$20,000
Private secretary	3,500	
Assistant secretary	2,500	
Two executive clerks at \$2,500 each	5,000	
Two executive clerks at \$1,500 each	3,000	
Two night watchmen at \$1,200 each	2,400	
Two doorkeepers at \$1,200 each	2,400	
Two furnace keepers at \$1,200 each	2,400	
Contingent expenses	4,000	
Total	\$44,300	

1871—	Comptroller of President	\$25,000
Private secretary	3,500	
Assistant secretary	2,500	
Two executive clerks at \$2,500 each	5,000	
Two executive clerks at \$1,500 each	3,000	
Two night watchmen at \$1,200 each	2,400	
Two doorkeepers at \$1,200 each	2,400	
Two furnace keepers at \$1,200 each	2,400	
Contingent expenses	4,000	
Total	\$44,300	

1872—	Comptroller of President	\$25,000
Private secretary	3,500	
Assistant secretary	2,500	
Two executive clerks at \$2,500 each	5,000	
Two executive clerks at \$1,500 each	3,000	
Two night watchmen at \$1,200 each	2,400	
Two doorkeepers at \$1,200 each	2,400	
Two furnace keepers at \$1,200 each	2,400	
Contingent expenses	4,000	
Total	\$44,300	

1873—	Comptroller of President	\$25,000
Private secretary	3,500	
Assistant secretary	2,500	
Two executive clerks at \$2,500 each	5,000	
Two executive clerks at \$1,500 each	3,000	
Two night watchmen at \$1,200 each	2,400	
Two doorkeepers at \$1,200 each	2,400	
Two furnace keepers at \$1,200 each	2,400	
Contingent expenses	4,000	
Total	\$44,300	

1874—	Comptroller of President	\$25,000
Private secretary	3,500	
Assistant secretary	2,500	
Two executive clerks at \$2,500 each	5,000	
Two executive clerks at \$1,500 each	3,000	
Two night watchmen at \$1,200 each	2,400	
Two doorkeepers at \$1,200 each	2,400	
Two furnace keepers at \$1,200 each	2,400	
Contingent expenses	4,000	
Total	\$44,300	

1875—	Comptroller of President	\$25,000
Private secretary	3,500	
Assistant secretary	2,500	
Two executive clerks at \$2,500 each	5,000	
Two executive clerks at \$1,500 each	3,000	
Two night watchmen at \$1,200 each	2,400	
Two doorkeepers at \$1,200 each	2,400	
Two furnace keepers at \$1,200 each	2,400	
Contingent expenses	4,000	
Total	\$44,300	

1876—	Comptroller of President	\$25,000
Private secretary	3,500	
Assistant secretary	2,500	
Two executive clerks at \$2,500 each	5,000	
Two executive clerks at \$1,500 each	3,000	
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Two doorkeepers at \$1,200 each	2,400	
Two furnace keepers at \$1,200 each	2,400	
Contingent expenses	4,000	
Total	\$44,300	

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Private secretary	3,500	
Assistant secretary	2,500	
Two executive clerks at \$2,500 each	5,000	
Two executive clerks at \$1,500 each	3,000	
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Two doorkeepers at \$1,200 each	2,400	
Two furnace keepers at \$1,200 each	2,400	
Contingent expenses	4,000	
Total	\$44,300	

1878—	Comptroller of President	\$25,000
Private secretary	3,500	
Assistant secretary	2,500	
Two executive clerks at \$2,500 each	5,000	
Two executive clerks at \$1,500 each	3,000	
Two night watchmen at \$1,200 each	2,400	
Two doorkeepers at \$1,200 each	2,400	
Two furnace keepers at \$1,200 each	2,400	
Contingent expenses	4,000	
Total	\$44,300	

1879—	Comptroller of President	\$25,000
Private secretary	3,500	
Assistant secretary	2,500	
Two executive clerks at \$2,500 each	5,000	
Two executive clerks at \$1,500 each	3,000	
Two night watchmen at \$1,200 each	2,400	
Two doorkeepers at \$1,200 each	2,400	
Two furnace keepers at \$1,200 each	2,400	
Contingent expenses	4,000	
Total	\$44,300	

1880—	Comptroller of President	\$25,000
Private secretary	3,500	
Assistant secretary	2,500	
Two executive clerks at \$2,500 each	5,000	
Two executive clerks at \$1,500 each	3,000	
Two night watchmen at \$1,200 each	2,400	
Two doorkeepers at \$1,200 each	2,400	
Two furnace keepers at \$1,200 each	2,400	
Contingent expenses	4,000	
Total	\$44,300	

1881—	Comptroller of President	\$25,000
Private secretary	3,500	
Assistant secretary	2,500	
Two executive clerks at \$2,500 each	5,000	
Two executive clerks at \$1,500 each	3,000	
Two night watchmen at \$1,200 each	2,400	
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way stations being under the charge of experienced officers. A further attempt at centralization was contemplated in furnishing provisions for the troops, and it is expected that hereafter this will be done by the Quartermaster-General's department.

The great impetus given to rifle shooting in Great Britain by the volunteer movement is well known, and the value of skilled marksmanship in modern warfare is now acknowledged on all hands. It was demonstrated by the Boer militia at Laing's Nek that a squad of accomplished riflemen, placed behind a bank, and well supplied with ammunition, could silence artillery. According to Sir ROBERT LYON LINDSAY, who is an authority on this subject, and to whom we are indebted for most of the data here cited, a well-trained body of fifty men, placed under cover, can easily fire 3,000 shots in a quarter of an hour, and place every shot at 800 yards within a space no larger than an ordinary sitting room. At this rate a battalion should be able to pour on an approaching enemy a shower of lead under which no troops could stand, much less advance. Of course it will not do to build too much on the figures obtained from the competition of picked men. No doubt the waste of ammunition and loss of opportunity in war will be enormous under the most favorable circumstances. But it was made equally certain by the success of the Boers that the waste and loss might be greatly reduced. The firing of the volunteers, which is already much superior to that of the regulars, may be expected to improve when they are supplied with an equally good weapon. All the men in the British army are furnished with the Martini-Henry rifle, while that arm is now issued only to three or four per cent. of the militia and volunteers.

When and for what purposes is this auxiliary force available? The volunteers can be called upon for active service only in the case of actual or apprehended invasion. No matter how grave may be the emergency or danger, if it falls short of the specific peril named, the Crown is not even authorized to accept the spontaneous tender of their services. Thus we see that the volunteers, so far as regards the scope of their usefulness, correspond to the German *Landwehr*. Now, however, that the organization has revealed such capabilities, many people would assimilate it to the German *Landwehr*, making of it a reserve force, to be called upon in any emergency in time of need. According to Sir R. LYON LINDSAY, the present popularity of the force, among all parties, would suffer, if it could be called upon to keep the peace in the event of internal troubles. It was the dread of invasion that called it into being, and this, he thinks, is the only danger that would silence all party differences and unite the nation in a conviction of the supreme necessity of action. It is suggested, however, that the volunteers might be turned to practical account, not as a part of the active army, but as a feeder to the regular reserve. The need of reinforcing this reserve is obvious enough, since, according to the latest returns, its so-called "first class" only numbers 2,000 men. There is no doubt, either, that a volunteer reserve would secure a class of soldiers superior to any who have hitherto been drawn into the regular service. Of course joining the reserve would be perfectly optional with each volunteer, and he would merely be liable to be called out after a great national emergency had been declared, and then to serve only for the campaign. Probably such an attempt would be a very unwise one, in an organization in which the people of Great Britain have learned to take a pride. It seems unreasonable to an outside observer that the volunteers should form no part of the territorial army, recently created, when up to the present date it is the only force which can fairly claim the designation. It has become impossible, in fact, to pass over the volunteers in calculating the extent of England's military resources.

The Military Academy.

The report of the Board appointed to visit the Academy at West Point last June has at length appeared, and takes the double form of a report of the Board as a whole and an additional or minority report.

The two principal points on which the minority report differs from the majority are, first, the question of the Academy's future, and secondly, the question of the Academy's present organization. These are, first, the command and government of the Academy; secondly, the standard of qualification for entering the Academy, in its influence on the course of studies to be pursued there.

The visitors all agree that it is a mistake to make West Point a military department; and they agree also that the old custom of placing the school in charge of the Engineer Corps has been unwisely abandoned. But the majority are inclined, while stating these facts, to dwell on the Academy very strongly just as it is; and it is this policy which determines the minority, consisting of DON CARLOS BUELL, MILOR HASKELL, and H. B. LEYLAND, to make a decided issue, and to demand, first, that the school shall be taken out of the category of general military commands, and secondly, that it shall specifically be restored to the charge of the Engineer Corps, subject, of course, to the War Office.

There is no doubt that the minority are right in insisting on their point. There is, perhaps, no technical violation of the law in present arrangement. The Revised Statutes, section 229, declare that there shall be one superintendent, one commandant of cadets, and so on, without limiting their selection to any arm or branch of the service; but in section 1,310 it is added that "the superintendent and the commandant of cadets, while serving as such, shall have, respectively, the local rank of Colonel and Lieutenant-Colonel of engineers." It is notorious that if Gen. HOWARD has any such local rank, it is eclipsed in his rank and state as a full Brigadier-General. It is notorious that his full rank and command are exercised in the regular army, and that he is a Major-General. The staffs of these officers are such as a Colonel of engineers would not have. The Assistant Adjutant-General of the military department forms no part of the Academy organization, as prescribed in the Revised Statutes already referred to, and yet, as the visitors point out, he "occupies quarters required by the academic officers." Perhaps the assertion of the visitors that it was "contemplated by the law" that the school should be in charge of a Colonel of engineers is a fair inference from the local rank which the superintendent is to have by statute; at all events, the inference is greatly strengthened by the uniform practice up to the year 1879, when for the first time the superintendent was taken from the engineers and thrown open to the army at large.

It is possible that there may have been some idea of infusing into the school a larger element of the experience of campaigning, in making this change; but if so, the idea was superficial, because the Engineer Corps was well supplied with officers who had been brigade, division, or corps commanders throughout the war. The

real trouble was, and still is, that the war left the regular army with an array of general officers totally out of proportion to the troops they had to command, and there has since been much difficulty in getting enough divisions, departments, and other commands for them to fill. West Point seemed to be a good berth for one high officer; and in order that a General might be assigned to it with becoming dignity, it was transformed, some years ago, to a military department. As the visitors all agree that the old plan was the best, and as the majority commend in the highest terms the system established by the late Gen. TRAYNER, of engineers, the minority are right in making an issue in this matter forthwith. They declare that since the change "there has been virtually no supervisor's restraining or governing authority;" that the Academy has been "amenable only to the check of an ordinary inspection and the operation of disjointed decisions;" that nowadays a superintendent "puts relatives and personal favorites in staff positions;" himself gets his place through influence rather than through fitness, and, with his army habits, "interposes his authority in a manner prejudicial to the discipline and educational character of the institution." This is, of course, a bitter attack on the present system. If the view is sound, the change demanded should be made at once; and we know of no reason why Gen. O. O. HOWARD should keep his place more than anybody else, if the school ought to be restored to the engineers.

The question of establishing a higher standard of educational qualification for admission is not easy to settle. For what is the use of raising the standard, under the present system of appointment, if Congressmen and senators send their sons and sons-in-law to the school? The school is fitted to educate a certain number, and all it can do is to take the best that are sent. The minority suggest that a preparatory Government school might perhaps obviate the difficulty. But this, in turn, might be shifting the difficulty, as some of the appointees might not even be qualified for the preparatory school. It would be substantially adding another year to the Government's course of free education for the army, with, of course, additional expense. The whole subject may perhaps get the careful discussion it deserves when the next West Point appropriation bill comes up. The school is fitted to educate a certain number, and all it can do is to take the best that are sent. The minority suggest that a preparatory Government school might perhaps obviate the difficulty. But this, in turn, might be shifting the difficulty, as some of the appointees might not even be qualified for the preparatory school. It would be substantially adding another year to the Government's course of free education for the army, with, of course, additional expense. The whole subject may perhaps get the careful discussion it deserves when the next West Point appropriation bill comes up.

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views described by the testator, and to be applied to the promotion of those views, it might be different; but where a legacy is given to a religious society for general charitable purposes, the question of changes in its views and usages will not be inquired into by the civil courts.

This decision is in accordance with the rule laid down in previous cases of a character more or less analogous in various States. In a leading case decided in this State by Chancellor WALWORTH, the law is stated briefly in these words: "All questions relating to the faith and practice of the Church and its members, and which the Church judicatories to which they have voluntarily subjected themselves, it would be impracticable to follow any other rule. The facts of the present case are invested with interest apart from the legal adjudication to which they have led, by the light they throw upon the forces and influences at work within the unobtrusive Society of Friends. It is evident that a sharp collision of earnestly asserted religious views may prove too severe a trial even for that patient and strife-shunning spirit which is one of the fundamental doctrines of the Society to incommode, and which was displayed so often and so impressively by its founders as well as by many of its later representatives.

To Reform the Civil Service.

The simplest and most effective way to reform the civil service is to abolish all needless offices.